

What is claimed is:

1. An image sending device having a sending means for sending a medical image, to which supplementary information including patient privacy information is attached, to an external device, comprising:

a separating means for separating the medical image into the supplementary information and an image body; and

a transmission control means for controlling the sending means so that the sending means sends the supplementary information using a higher security transmission method compared to a transmission method for sending the image body.

2. The image sending device as defined in Claim 1, wherein the higher security transmission method is a transmission method that encrypts the supplementary information using a more sophisticated encryption method compared to an encryption method for encrypting the image body.

3. The image sending device as defined in Claim 1, wherein the higher security transmission method is a transmission method for sending the supplementary information using a higher security communication circuit compared to a communication circuit for sending the image body.

4. The image sending device as defined in Claim 1, further comprising:

a selection accepting means for accepting a selection of a first transmission method that encrypts the supplementary information using a more sophisticated encryption method

compared to an encryption method for encrypting the image body and/or a second transmission method for sending the supplementary information using a higher security communication circuit compared to a communication circuit for sending the image body as the high security transmission method; wherein:

the transmission control means controls the sending means so that the sending means sends the supplementary information using the transmission method which has been accepted by the selection accepting means.

5. An image receiving device comprising:

a receiving means for receiving the supplementary information and the image body which have been sent by the image sending device as defined in Claim 1; and

10 an associating means for associating the supplementary information with the image body.

6. An image sending device having a sending means for sending a medical image, to which supplementary information including patient privacy information is attached, to an external device, comprising:

a separating means for separating the medical image into the supplementary information and an image body; and

a transmission control means for controlling the sending means so that the sending means sends only the image body.

25 7. The image sending device as defined in Claim 6, further comprising a recording means for recording the

supplementary information in a recording medium.

8. The image sending device as defined in Claim 6,
further comprising:

a print-out means for printing out the supplementary
5 information.